Northern Rockies Fuels Status Web Page

The Fuels Status Web Page was developed for the purpose of relaying critical fuels information from the field to decision makers. It is a voluntary program whose success is attributed to those who maintain the database, the fuels specialists. Users of this data include Incident Response Teams, Resource Allocation Specialists, and the National Weather Service. The page can be viewed by accessing the following link: http://199.141.1.20/fuels/nrcc/public/index.php

The website is easy to maintain. Volunteers will need to log into the website using a user name and password. From there, they can select the NWS Fire Weather Zone in which they want to update. While updating the database, they will need to state either "yes" the fuels are critical, or "no" they are not critical. In addition, there is a column for them to write a brief narrative of their observations. The question that the fuels specialist (or whoever enters the data) needs to answer in the narrative is this: "What do I feel are the most important things the users need to know about the status of the fuels in my area?" Written observations can be as short as a few words or as long as a paragraph. When completed the data is saved. If the person who made the entry stated "yes" their fuels are critically dry, then the shading on the base map will turn red for that Fire Weather Zone (FWZ). If they stated "no", then the shading on the base map will turn green. If no update has been made to the page for a given FWZ in more than a week, then that zone will lose its shading. This is done not only to further encourage participation, but to provide a fuels status update "at a glance."

Ideally, the data for each Fire Weather Zone (FWZ) should be updated at least once per week. It is perfectly acceptable for more than one person to update the information for a given FWZ. As we all know, fuel conditions can vary greatly across a FWZ. This information will be most helpful during the shoulder seasons when there is a lot of ambiguity.

Please contact Bryan Henry at Predictive Services by email at RBHenry@blm.gov or by phone at (406) 329-4875 for more information.